Before the next item on the Agenda was taken up, MR. B. NARASINGA RAO begged leave to move the following resolution:—

"This Assembly desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Srinivasa Rao and Mr. K. S. Channabasappa and expresses its deep regret at the lamented death of those two gentlemen and conveys its sorrow to the members of the two bereaved families."

He added that Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Coffee Planter, Chikmagalur, was a member of the Assembly for the last 45 years and also served on the Committee appointed to submit recommendations in connection with the Constitutional Developments in Mysore. Mr. Kabbahalli Channabasappa of Gundlupet was also a member of the Assembly and met with a sudden death. He devoted most of his wealth for the benefit of the public and spent as much as Rs. 50,000 for the Veerasaiva Hostel at Mysore and also gave endowments to the Mysore University. There was still so much that he wanted to do, and the State sustained a severe loss by his sudden demise.

MR. M. S. NARASINGA RAO supported the resolution, which was unanimously adopted, the whole House remaining standing.

The next item on the Agenda was replies to interpellations, but as these had just been received from the Press, the Dewan-President informed the House that they would be placed in the hands of the members immediately and would be taken up after lunch.

Government Business was then taken up, and the first item to be considered was the following statement of the main principles of the Bill to Amend the Mysore Weights and Measures Regulation, 1902, copies of which had been duly circulated to the members:—

Statement of the Main Principles of the Bill to Amend the Mysore Weights and Measures Regulation, 1902.

Under the existing Regulation and the Rules thereunder, the Government may only prescribe the standard of weights and measures which should be adopted in any area and any person who uses any weight or measure *not in accordance with the standard* will be deemed to have used a false weight or measure which is an offence punishable under the Penal Code. The existing Regulation does not,

however, make the use of measures stamped and certified by Government obligatory.

With a view to popularise the use of correct measures, the Government have made arrangements for the manufacture of a sufficiently large number of sets of measures, but in the absence of provision in the Regulation making the use of stamped and certified measures obligatory, there has not been much demand for the measures arranged to be manufactured by the Government and unstamped weights and measures continue to be used.

It has been frequently pressed upon the attention of the Government at the sessions of the Representative Assembly that the use of uncertified weights and measures affords scope to unscrupulous persons to defraud the public by using false weights and measures and when the matter was discussed, the general sense of the Assembly was in favour of making the use of stamped and certified measures obligatory in areas to be notified for the purpose.

It is now proposed to amend the existing Regulation so as to make the use of certified measures obligatory and a draft of a Bill to amend the Regulation has also been prepared. The object of the Bill is to take power for the Government to require the use, in any area to be notified by the Government, of weights and measures of capacity certified in accordance with the rules and to make punishable the use of weights and measures not so certified.

MR. G. PARAMASIVIAH observed that the difficulty was not so much about the use of uncertified weights and measures as the need for frequent inspection on the part of Government officers with a view to see that the weights and measures were not in any way tampered with after issue by Government. There were different standards in different tracts and it was necessary to introduce one uniform system throughout the State. He suggested that the concerned officers must visit places of shandies and inspect the weights and measures used thereat with a view to see whether all the merchants used uniform weights and measures and whether the public were in any way defrauded.

THE DEWAN replied that the proposed legislation would not prevent Government accepting the suggestion.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that it was only by supplying standard weights and insisting on their use that the public could be saved from being defrauded. It is most difficult for Magistrates to test the correctness of weights and measures that are not stamped and a plea of

consent or contract could be urged by persons using such weights and measures.

MR. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN agreed that a legislation of the kind proposed was necessary and that the Assembly had pressed the need therefor for the past 15 years. At the same time he thought that the Statement of Objects and Reasons led to the impression that only weights and measures issued by the Government Factory had to be used.

When the CHIEF SECRETARY replied that there was no intention of making their use obligatory, the member suggested that the weights and measures issued by Government should be sold sufficiently cheap. He repeated that even certified weights and measures were often found to be below the standard and suggested that their correctness should frequently be verified.

MR. CHANNANANJAPPA SETTY of Kolar observed that in his own district, the standard of weight differed from place to place and that one uniform standard should be enforced throughout as a matter of convenience to the public. He also suggested that the weights and measures issued by Government should be changed once in every 5 or 3 years.

MR. D. S. MALLAPPA said that the object of the legislation was indeed good but that it could not be achieved only by issuing certified weights and measures. He said that there were instances of certified weights and measures subsequently showing variations and insisted that Government should guarantee that the weights and measures issued by them were absolutely correct. He added that there were differences in the weights issued by the Taluk authorities and the people taking them had sometimes to suffer for the mistake of the Government.

THE DEWAN observed that it was unlikely that weights and measures issued and certified by the Government would show variations and that cases of cheating on the part of merchants would certainly be suitably dealt with. He said that adequate arrangements would be made for periodical inspection of weights and measures by Government officers.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY added that the seamless measures issued by Government could not possibly be below the standard. But one member pointed out that they were very costly, each seamless seer costing as much as Rs. 4, while ordinary seers cost only 12 annas. He considered that unless seamless measures were sold cheaper, they could not be purchased by all.

MR. MALLAPPA thought that there were rules in this behalf already and that there was no need for a fresh legislation of the kind proposed.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that the proposed legislation only aimed at mitigating the inconvenience experienced by the public and that any cases of fraud had to be put down as they came to notice. He did not think that all deception and fraud would disappear by passing the proposed Regulation. If a seal were impressed there would be means of knowing whether one was or was not a correct measure. He said that it would not eradicate the evil but only minimize it.

MR. VEMA REDDY suggested the issue of measures prepared out of bell-metal so that merchants could not tamper with them, and that they must be certified at the very top so that they could not be filed away as was sometimes done.

THE DEWAN observed that the measures would become too costly if that was done ; and the Director of Industries Mr. Zahiruddin Mecci added that even as they were, the measures were very heavy and that they would become heavier still if prepared out of bell-metal. He assured the House that there would not be any variation in size while issuing from the factory.

MR. B. L. BYANNA supported the measure proposed and observed that it was not right or even possible for Government to guarantee the correctness of weights and measures for all time.

MR. RAMACHANDRA RAO SINDHE agreed with Mr. Byanna and added that such a Regulation was in force in British India.

MR. MALALI VENKATARAMAIYA suggested the introduction of a system of uniform weights only, instead of weights and measures.

At this stage, the sense of the Assembly was taken, and the Bill was taken as passed, the majority of the members being in favour.

The second item of Government Business to be considered was the following:—

Statement of the Main Principles of the Bill to Amend the Forest Regulation, copies of which had been duly circulated to the members;—

Statement.

The Mysore Forest Regulation XI of 1900 amended by Regulation IX of 1901 and VI of 1920, does not contain any provision empowering the Government to take up the management of forests owned by any private person or a public body or institution or by Government jointly with such bodies or institutions, when the owners of the forest make an application to Government for management thereof as a Government forest.

There are certain rich forests or waste lands belonging to the Kalasa Temple. In order to improve the income from the forests, it is considered necessary that the Forest Department of Government should take up the management of the forests belonging to the temple and work them in the same way as Government forests.

To provide for legal sanction to this measure and to enable Government to deal with such applications in future from similar institutions or from owners of private forests, it is proposed to amend the Mysore Forest Regulation on the lines of the Madras Forest Act so as to empower the Government to take up, subject to suitable conditions to be specified in each case, the management of forests owned by public institutions or private individuals on the application of the owners thereof.

Provision will be accordingly made in the amending Regulation to take up the management of private forests or waste lands on the application of the owner and if there are more owners than one, on the application of two-thirds of the owners of shares therein. The management may vest in the District Forest Officer or in a person appointed by the owner or owners, subject to the control of the Conservator of Forests, and approved by him, as the owner may desire, and all or any of the provisions of the Forest Regulation will be made applicable to the forests or waste lands on the application of the owner. The provisions of the Regulation which will be made applicable to these forests or waste lands will be notified in the Gazette.

In case of forests or waste lands, the joint property of private persons and Government, Government may undertake the management of the forests themselves or issue rules for the management thereof by the persons so jointly interested, and when Government undertakes the management of these forests, the provisions of Chapters II and IV of the Forest Regulation may be made applicable to these forests by a notification in the Gazette.

All persons employed for the management of these forests or waste lands under the provisions of the amended regulation shall be deemed to be forest officers.

MR. ABDUL NABI did not see the necessity for a measure of the kind proposed as the Government could always take the lease of the forests or waste lands without rent. He did not think that simply because such a measure existed in Madras, it should also be introduced here. He thought that legislation should, as far as possible, be avoided in such matters.

At this stage MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO suggested that the principles of the measure should be first explained to the House by the Member-in-Charge, before the views of the members were elicited.

THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT ruled that it was not necessary as the statement explaining the main principles had been circulated to the members as required under standing orders.

MR. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN saw no objection to accepting the measure.

MR. ANANTHAIYA observed that in the case of inam forest lands adjoining Government forests, the application of the owners of the former was not necessary but that they could be taken over under Government management. As regards forest land owned by more than one private individual or institution, he suggested that three-fourths instead of two-thirds of the number of share owners should apply for Government management.

MESSRS. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, THE CHIEF SECRETARY and others opposed the first suggestion.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that the second suggestion would be noted for consideration.

MR. M. S. NARASINGA RAO opposed the Bill on the ground that if private forests were taken over under Government management, the poor people who depended upon them for any forest produce would be deprived thereof.

As the majority of the members were in favour of the measure, the Bill was taken as passed.

The third item of Government Business to be considered was the following:—

The Statement of the General Principles of the Bill to Regulate the Working of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories in the State, copies of which had been duly circulated to the members.

Statement.

This legislation is mainly on the lines of "The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, No. XII of 1925" of the Government of India. The Bill aims at putting the cotton trade in a position to protect itself against such malpractices as damping, mixing and adulteration in the ginning and pressing factories.

The Agricultural Department of the State has successfully evolved two superior varieties of cotton (*Sanna Hatti* and *Dodda Hatti*) whose introduction in the State is expected to considerably improve the quality of the Mysore cotton. It is considered that a Regulation on the lines of the Government of India Act, will serve to help the introduction of an improved variety of cotton in the State and to keep up its reputation.

Enquiries have shown that the mixing is done after the cultivator has sold his cotton and that it is done mainly in the ginning and pressing factories. The proposed legislation deals therefore with only factory owners.

THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON THE FACTORY OWNERS.

(1) Under the proposed legislation, every owner of a pressing factory is bound to have all the bales pressed in the factory marked before they are removed from the press-house in a prescribed manner, with a serial number and with a mark prescribed for the factory. Most of the presses are even now in the habit of using their own marks and such marking will be made obligatory under the proposed Regulation.

(2) The factory owner will be required to have records maintained of all bales pressed with particulars of persons for whom they are pressed. Here also the obligation which will be imposed by the Regulation will be nothing new, as most presses already maintain records of all cotton pressed, especially when they press for more than one client.

(3) Every gin-owner will be required to maintain a record of all cotton ginned and for whom it is ginned. Both will be required to produce their records or copies of any entries therein if called upon to do so by the authorities that may be appointed by the Government.

The following are some of the additional features of the Bill :—

(1) All pressing factories should submit periodical returns of the number of bales pressed.

(2) In ginning and pressing factories only recognised weights shall be used.

(3) New factories should comply with certain requirements regarding structural improvements. On account of the faulty construction of several factories, the cotton ginned in them is seriously damaged. It is therefore provided that the construction of all future factories should conform to certain standards.

MR. O. CHANNABASAPPA opposed the Bill. He said that such a measure would affect only a part of the Chitaldrug District, as ginning was not carried on to any extent anywhere else in Mysore except in Davangere and Chitaldrug. So far as Mysore cotton was concerned, it had a reputation of its own and speaking from personal experience he thought that no serious consequences ensued by mixing *Sanna Hatti* and *Dodda Hatti*. In fact, such a mixing was under certain circumstances very necessary. He said that conditions in British India were different and the reasons for the introduction of such a measure there, would not justify its introduction in Mysore. Already cotton-growers in Mysore were suffering heavy losses due to the Madras Act, as under it, Mysore cotton was not imported by cotton dealers in Madras for want of a similar legislation here, with the result that the prices had fallen. He did not think that such a legislation would encourage the production of cotton in Mysore. Also, the Madras Act had been recently passed and sufficient experience had not been gained of its working. When it was known how the Act had worked, it would be time to consider whether similar legislation was called for in Mysore. He therefore suggested that legislation might be deferred for the present.

MR. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN also did not consider that a legislation of the kind was necessary as not more than five or six factories and ginning presses existed in Mysore and the several restrictions imposed by the measure would cause serious inconveniences to the people.

MR. ANANTHAIYA observed that there had not been complaints of different kinds of cotton being mixed up and that a Regulation of the proposed kind was not called for.

MR. HUTCHUVEERE GOWDA observed that no legislation should be thought of which would in any measure adversely affect the cotton industry in the State which was still in an

infant stage, and that all that was possible should be done to promote that industry.

MR. M. S. NARASINGA RAO remarked that it looked to him as though the Bill was intended to benefit foreign merchants. On account of the Madras Act the cotton-growers of Mysore had already sustained loss to the extent of over Rs. 4 lakhs and if this Bill was passed the loss would be even greater.

MR. VEMA REDDY also opposed the Bill. He thought that there was no need for it in Mysore and that no inconvenience was felt for want of it; nor would any class of people in Mysore be benefited if it were passed. If any commodity was adulterated it was the dealer that would be prejudiced as he would not find a sale at all. He thought that by the introduction of the measure, cotton cultivation would go down with the result that the raiyats would not obtain cotton seeds so necessary for cattle. For these reasons he requested that the Bill be dropped, at least for the present.

MR. G. PARAMASIVIAH repeated the observations of Mr. Chennabasappa. He said that it was hardly a year since the British Indian Act was passed and until some experience of the effects of this law on the cotton industry was gained, it would be too premature to undertake a similar measure in Mysore. In the first place, he did not know what led to the legislation in Madras. He did not consider that the adoption of such a measure in Mysore would reduce the price of cloth. If instances of adulteration came to notice, it would then be time for legislation. He therefore opposed the Bill.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY informed the House that the Indian Cotton Committee had specifically observed in their report that adulteration was going on in the Davangere factories and presses, so that if the proposed measure was not taken there was every likelihood of the Mysore cotton losing its reputation. Under the system proposed, it would be easy to find out where exactly the adulteration was effected so that the cotton owner or dealer could easily recover any loss accruing on this account. Besides, in the absence of a Regulation of the kind, Mysore cotton-growers were not in a position to export the produce to outside Presidencies. It was not the intention of Government to make the local industry suffer in any way; on the other hand, it was their object to secure for it every advantage and opportunity to find suitable markets outside. He pointed

out that there were no penal provisions in the proposed measure and that there was nothing to fear from it.

MR. D. S. MALLAPPA observed that whatever remark was made in the Cotton Committee's report in regard to the Mysore cotton, there was much difference of opinion as to the allegations of adulteration. The Madras Act was intended to profit the British mills more than the cotton-growers of India and so there was no reason to copy the legislation. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons itself it was observed that cotton-growers were not charged with committing adulteration; and as regards factories, they had employed experts to see that nothing which would affect their business was done. The cotton industry in Mysore was of recent origin and it should be the object of Government not to do anything which would bring in unnecessary restrictions in respect of it. There was nothing to prevent Government enacting any measure the moment the need for it was made out; and when that was done, necessary penal clauses also should be inserted.

MR. Y. SRINIVASIENGAR endorsed the above observations.

MR. D. S. HANUMANTHA RAO, on the other hand, said that the proposed legislation did not affect cotton cultivation and added that at any rate there was no harm in enacting a law as proposed.

MR. B. L. BYANNA observed that though the object of Government in proposing the legislation was to improve the quality of local cotton and obtain better prices for it, it was not expedient to pass the law in view of the fact that the number of existing factories was too small and it would not encourage, on account of certain restrictions, the establishment of more factories. He was of opinion that such a legislation should not be passed unless the need for it was made out by the representatives of the people which in the present case, was wanting. He therefore opposed the measure.

MR. NILGIRI SANJIVIAH brought to notice that sometimes, owing to unhealthy competition, adulteration would be inevitable in order that the commodity might be supplied at cheaper rates. Of course, its purity could not be guaranteed in such cases but people would be prepared to buy at that rate without asking for a guarantee. In these circumstances it was best that Government did not interfere in such cases.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL assured the members that the proposed legislation would not affect the cotton-growers but that it was intended to prevent adulteration in

the factories by which inferior cotton was palmed off as superior cotton. It should be admitted that such malpractices would affect the reputation of Mysore cotton and should be discouraged. The requirements under the Regulation were in respect of marking bales, maintaining proper accounts, etc., which practice already existed in many cases. These precautions. cannot be considered to adversely affect trade and commerce. Besides, the legislation was based on that in British India and in all such matters it was desirable that neighbouring provinces should as far as possible follow one method.

MR. RAMACHANDRA RAO SINDHE agreed with Mr. N. G. Sanjiviah and observed that it was the look-out of the purchasers to ascertain whether the quality of the cotton was good or not. The Madras Act was intended more to benefit the British industry. If the object of the Mysore Government was really to improve the quality of cotton grown, that could be better achieved by legislating that particular kinds of cotton alone should be grown, as was done in Java.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY said that mixing up could not be avoided as no ginning press dealt with cotton grown on any one field. The cotton-growers would suffer heavily if the legislation was passed. He appealed to Government to leave the matter to the discretion of the buyers.

MR. SINGRI NANJAPPA said that free trade would suffer if this legislation was passed. The buyers wanted nice stuff, it was true, but they also wanted it cheap. It was the legitimate ambition of the cotton-growers to make a profit side by side with satisfying the buyers. He therefore appealed to the members not to support the measure.

Another member observed that because the Act was passed in Madras it was not necessary to adopt it here. It was just possible that the Madras Act would be repealed shortly. In these circumstances, he thought that it would be better if Mysore waited till some experience was gained of the working of the Act in Madras.

MR. MANJAIYA of Channarayapatna thought that if the legislation was passed not only the raiyats here would be put to loss but the labours of the Agricultural Department in this respect would all go to waste.

MR. CHANNANANJAPPA SETTY felt that the merchants, and not the factories, were responsible for adulteration and it was not therefore just to subject the factories to the provisions of the Regulation for irregularities committed by the merchants.

MR. K. VENKATASAMIAH was of opinion that it was not expedient to pass the legislation merely to get a passport for our cotton at the hands of outsiders. The best way of improving the quality was to request the Agricultural Department to supply better seeds.

MR. HUCHAHANUME GOWDA also opposed the measure.

As the sense of the Assembly was against the Bill, it was not pressed by Government.

The fourth item of Government Business to be considered was:—

The Statement of the Main Principles of the Bill to Repeal the Cotton Duties Regulation of 1896 and to Provide for the Regular Submission of Certain Returns, copies of which had been duly circulated among the members.

Statement.

The Government of India suspended for a period of three months with effect from 1st December 1925, by an Ordinance, the levy and collection of the duty under the Cotton Duties Act of 1896 and have since finally abolished this duty in the Indian Finance Act, 1926.

2. In order not to place the cotton mill industry in Mysore at a disadvantage as compared to mills in British India, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have also suspended, by Emergency Regulation I of 1926, for a period of six months, the levy and collection of the said duty on goods produced from the 1st of April 1926, and it is now proposed to abolish it altogether from the date the said Emergency Regulation ceases to have force.

3. The Cotton Duties Regulation, II of 1896, provides, in addition to the collection of the duty, for the submission of returns of the quantities of cotton goods produced in the mills in the State. These statistics of production are being compiled now and have proved of great assistance in studying the development and vicissitudes of the industry. It is proposed to continue these statistics by including in the repealing measure, provision for the compulsory preparation and submission of the required returns.

A large number of members opined that this was a very necessary measure, and the Bill was therefore taken as passed.

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch, and after the House reassembled Interpellations were taken up.